

Lesson: #1

INTRODUCTION ON SPIRITUAL GIFTS

The following four passages will be used in our study of Spiritual Gifts:

1 Cor.12-14;
Rom.12: 3-8;
Eph.4: 7-16; and
1 Pet.4: 10-11.

A careful study of these four passages will reveal 19 not 20 Spiritual Gifts. There is a special Greek grammar rule called Granville Sharp rule of hyphen that makes pastor-teacher one gift in Eph.4: 11.

This means that four Spiritual Gifts are listed and not five in Eph.4: 11 (apostles, prophets, evangelists, and pastor-teacher).

“The words ‘pastors’ and ‘teachers’ are in a construction called Granville Sharp’s rule which indicates that they refer to one individual. The one who shepherds God’s flock is also a teacher of the Word, having both the gifts of shepherding and teaching the flock.” (Word Studies in the Greek NT by Wuest, pg.100)

This lesson will introduce the subject of Spiritual Gifts with FIVE important basic factors.

1. We will begin our Introduction on Spiritual Gifts with five Greek words used in our lesson text.

Pneumatikos (*ikos/ belonging to the Spirit*) describes the fact that all spiritual gifts belong to the Holy Spirit both in distribution and function to the Church (12:1).

Charisma (*ma/ results of grace*) describes the fact that God’s grace is the source of varieties of spiritually gifted ministries in the Church (12:4).

Diakonia (*ia/ quality of ministry*) describes the fact that the diversity of spiritual gifts is the program of the Lord’s ministries within the Church (12:5).

Energema (*ma/ results of effects, operation, or working*) describes the fact that the varieties of spiritual gifts operate according to the master plan of God (12:6).

Phanerosis (*sis/ acts of manifesting*) describes the fact that the Holy Spirit’s manifestation of each spiritual gift is for the common good of the Church (12:7).

2. Spiritual gifts are distributed to every church age believer on the basis of the resurrection-ascension of Jesus Christ.

“Therefore it says, ‘when He ascended on high, He led captive a host of captives, and He gave (didomai/ a.a.ind) gifts (doma is derived from didomai/ it refers to the giving of a special occasion gift) to men” (Eph.4: 8).

Eph.4: 8 is a quotation from Psa.68: 18. “Paul applied this verse (as translated in the Septuagint) to the ascended Christ (Eph.4: 8-13).” (NIV, Psa.68: 18)

The Septuagint says, ‘Thou hast received gifts FOR man.’ The NAS says, ‘Thou hast received gifts AMONG men.’ The NIV says, ‘You received gifts FROM men.’ The Amplified says, ‘You have received gifts OF men.’

These different translations involve the interpretation of the Hebrew preposition (). It involves the interpretation of the Hebrew word used in Psa.68: 18 (baadam/). *Three pages are devoted to the subject of this one preposition in the Hebrew and English Lexicon by Brown, Driver, and Briggs.*

We will take the Greek interpretation that Paul gave it in Eph.4: 8 – ‘and He gave gifts to men (tois anthropois/ dplm/ TO men).’

3. All three members of the Godhead are involved in the distribution and function of Spiritual gifted ministries in the Church of Jesus Christ (1 Cor.12: 4-6).

Note the order in this text.

- Third member first – Holy Spirit (12:4) – varieties of gifts.
- Second member second – Lord (Jesus Christ) – varieties of ministries.
- First member third – God (the Father) – varieties of operation or effects.

Why this order? (Answer - John 14:16-18; 25-26; 15:26-27; 1 Cor.6: 19)

4. Distribution of spiritual gifts to every church age believer is 1 of 8 works of the Holy Spirit at salvation in the salvation package of 50 things.

Regeneration (John 3:1-8; Titus 3:5)

Baptism (1 Cor.12: 13)

Spiritual life (Eph.2: 5)

Sanctification (Rom.15: 16)

Adoption (Gal.4: 4-7)

Indwelling (1 Cor.6: 19)

Seals and earnest (2 Cor.1: 22)

Spiritual gift (1 Cor.12: 11)

‘But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.’ (1 Cor.12: 7)

‘As God has allotted to each a measure of faith.’ (Rom.12: 3)

‘And since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us.’ (Rom.12: 6)

- THIS MEANS THAT THERE ARE NO UNGIFTED CHURCH AGE BELIEVERS.
- THIS MEANS THAT SPIRITUAL GIFTS ARE DISTRIBUTED ON THE BASIS OF THE GRACE OF GOD IN CHRIST JESUS.

5. There is one Church body with plurality of parts and performances because of spiritual gifts (1 Cor.12: 12-27).

The formation and function of the local church is a facsimile of the universal church body of Jesus Christ (examples – the church at Rome, the church at Ephesus, and the church at Corinth) (1 Cor.1: 2; 12:11-12).

The concept of the formation of the local church as the body of Christ composed of parts or spiritual gifts is clearly taught by Paul in 1 Cor.12: 12-27.

God designed the local church to be spiritually multi-gifted ministries and not mono-gifted. This is why we have over 50 ministries operating in our local church.

These spiritual gifts are for the common good of the one body. They are not for the good or profit of one individual believer.

The Greek word for common good is sumpheron (profit, bringing together for good, benefit) (1 Cor.7: 35; 10:33; 12:7). This teaches that the function of spiritual gifts within the local church is for the benefit, profit, and common good of the entire body and never the individual member of the body.